



FIRE SAFETY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Director Gina Sweat

Memphis Fire Department

USFA Statistics

Each year:

- There are approximately 700 home fires involving people with physical disabilities.
- There are approximately 1,700 home fires involving people with mental disabilities.
- Kitchens and cooking areas are the primary areas where these fires start.

Fire safety messages to share:

Millions of Americans live with physical and mental disabilities.

It is important for them to know the steps they can take to stay safe from fire.

Put these fire safety messages into your own words when talking to people with disabilities about fire safety.

Understand your fire risk

- Having physical or mental disabilities does not mean you are unable to take the important steps to keep you and your family safe from fire.
- Build your fire prevention plans around your abilities.



Possible concerns



Install and maintain smoke alarms

- Smoke alarms with a vibrating pad or flashing light are available for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- Smoke alarms with a strobe light outside the home to catch the attention of neighbors, and emergency call systems for summoning help, are also available.
- Ask the manager of your building, or a friend or relative, to install at least one smoke alarm on each level of your home.
- Test smoke alarm batteries every month and change them at least once a year. If you can't reach the test button on your smoke alarm, ask someone to test it for you.
- MFD will install smoke detectors FREE – call 636-5650 or visit your nearest fire station.

Live near an exit

- Although you have the legal right to live where you choose, you'll be safest on the ground floor if you live in an apartment building.
- If you live in a multistory home, arrange to sleep on the first floor.
- Being on the ground floor and near an exit will make your escape easier.

Plan your escape

- Plan your escape around your capabilities.
- Know at least two exits from every room.
- If you use a walker or wheelchair, check all exits to be sure you can get through the doorways.
- Make any necessary changes, such as installing exit ramps and widening doorways, to make an emergency escape easier.

Don't isolate yourself

- Speak to your family members, building manager or neighbors about your fire safety plan and practice it with them.
- Keep a phone near your bed and be ready to call 911 or your local emergency number if a fire occurs.
- Contact your local fire station and explain your needs. They can suggest escape plan ideas and may perform a home fire safety inspection if you ask. Contact MFD at 636-5650 to schedule

Operation Rescue Information Card

OPERATION RESCUE
RETURN TO NEAREST FIRE STATION
OR MAIL TO:
OPERATION RESCUE
FIRE COMMUNICATIONS BUREAU
79 S. FLICKER STREET
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE 38104-5990

NAME _____ TEL. NO. _____
ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____
AGE _____ WEIGHT _____ SEX _____
LOCATION/PART OF HOUSE/APARTMENT OCCUPIED BY INVALID: _____

LIVES WITH: _____
WHY ASSISTANCE NEEDED IN CASE OF FIRE: _____

Date _____

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Healthcare Navigators Program

- Paramedics visit home during non-emergency
- Attempt to determine disability and other conditions
- Determine needs of the patient such as wheel chair ramps, grab rails, or home health needs
- Connect patient with proper resources – doctors, insurance, social workers, Meals on Wheels, No Hungry Senior, etc.

Healthcare Navigators Program Barriers



- Lack of transportation
- Lack of primary care provider
- Homelessness
- Unable to afford medications
- Lack of support group

We are searching for ways to fill these gaps

Visit the Fire Museum of Memphis

- *Historic firehouse with engines & other artifacts plus interactive safety programs aimed at kids. - Google*
- 118 Adams Ave, Memphis, TN 38103
- firemuseum.com
- (901) 636-5650
- Open now: 9AM–4:30PM





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